

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 3, 5 through 16 remain in this application. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended. Claims 4 and 17 have been canceled.

Allowable Claims

The Office Action indicated that claims 9 through 14 are allowable.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 1 through 3 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5982517 to Fishman et al (the Fishman reference). The Office Action objected to Claims 4 through 8 and 17 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Though the Fishman reference fails to disclose the elements of claims 1 through 3 and 16, in order to further prosecution of this case and expedite issuance of a patent on the allowed claims, claim 1 and claim 16 have been amended above to include limitations from claims 4 and 17 respectively. The rejected claims will be further pursued in a continuation application.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn and full allowance granted. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, please contact Jessica Smith at (972) 477-9109.

Respectfully submitted,

ALCATEL

/Jessica Smith/

Jessica W. Smith
Reg. No. 39,884

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Alcatel USA
Intellectual Property Department
3400 W. Plano Parkway, M/S LEGL2
Plano, TX 75075
Phone: (972) 477-9109
Fax: (972) 477-9328